

## INTERNATIONALSEARCHREPORT

International application No  
PCT/JP2005/017208

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|--|---|---|
| <b>A CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER</b>  |   |   |
| IntCl <b>G06F15/00 (2006.01), G06F9/445 (2006.01), G06F21/22 (2006.01)</b>   |   |   |
| According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC  |   |   |
| <b>B FIELDS SEARCHED</b>   |   |   |
| Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)<br><b>MCI G06F15/00 (2006.01), G06F9/445 (2006.01), G06F21/22 (2006.01)</b>  |   |   |
| Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched<br>Published examined utility model applications of Japan 1922-1996<br>Published unexamined utility model applications of Japan 1971-2005<br>Registered utility model specifications of Japan 1996-2005<br>Published registered utility model applications of Japan 1994-2005  |   |   |
| Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)<br>JST Files (JOIS ),<br>CSDB (Japanese Patent Office)  |   |   |
| <b>C DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT</b>   |   |   |
| Category*  | Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages  | Relevant to claim No  |
| X  | JP 2002-218143 A(RICOH Corp.) 2002.08.02,<br>See Sections[ 0021] - [ 0024] , [ 0037] , [ 0038] ,<br>[ 0050] - [ 0052] , Figs. 1-3, 8 .<br>(Family None) | 1, 13, 15, 16,<br>18-21, 24, 25,<br>29, 37, 39-43,<br>55, 57, 58,<br>60-63            |
| Y  | Same document above   | 4-6, 11, 23,<br>26, 32, 33, 35,<br>46-48, 53  |
| Y  | JP 2004-185467 A (Nihon Data Service Co. Ltd)<br>2004.07.02, See Section[ 0013] . (Family None)   | 4-6 , 23, 26,<br>32, 33, 46-48  |
| P?? Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C      j- See patent family annex  |   |   |
| <p>* Special categories of cited documents</p> <p>"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance</p> <p>"E" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date</p> <p>"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)</p> <p>"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means</p> <p>"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed</p> <p>"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention</p> <p>"X" document of particular relevance, the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone</p> <p>"Y" document of particular relevance, the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art</p> <p>"&amp;" document member of the same patent family</p> |   |   |
| Date of the actual completion of the international search<br><b>15.11.2005</b>   |   | Date of mailing of the international search report<br><b>22.11.2005</b>               |
| Name and mailing address of the ISA/JP<br><b>Japan Patent Office</b><br>3-4-3, Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-8915, Japan   |   | Authorized officer<br><b>Mitsuhiro Kubo</b><br>TelephoneNo +81-3-3581-1 101 Ext 354 6 |

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| C (Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| Category*   | Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages   | Relevant to claim No.  |
| Y   | JP 2002-03385 6A (Freebit.com Co. Ltd) 2002.01.31,<br>See Section[ 0055] .<br>& US 2001/0025275 A1, Section[ 0101] - [ 0102] | 11, 35, 53   |
| A   | JP 2001-337864 A (Hitachi Co. Ltd) 2001.12.07,<br>See Abstract.<br>& US 2001/0025311 A1                                      | 2, 3, 7-10, 12,<br>14, 17, 22, 27,<br>28, 30, 31, 34,<br>36, 38, 44, 45,<br>49-52, 54, 56,<br>59 |

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**Box No. II Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)**

This international search report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. **II\*** Claims NOS.:  
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
  
2. **P\*** Claims NOS.:  
because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:
  
- 3- **JT** Claims Nos.:  
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

**Box No. In Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)**

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

The feature common to all of Claims 1 to 63 is the whole statement of Claim 1. However, the search has revealed that Claim 1 is not novel since it is disclosed in document:

JP 11-338809 A (SONY Corp.), 1999.12.10, see sections [0033], [0061], [0062], [0064], [0081], Figs. 3, 6.

Consequently the common feature (Claim 1) is not a special technical feature within the meaning of PCT Rule 13.2, second sentence, since it makes no contribution over the prior art. Therefore, there is no other feature common to all the claims. Since there exists no other common feature which can be considered as a special technical feature within the meaning of PCT Rule 13.2, second sentence, no technical relationship within the meaning of PCT Rule 13 between the different inventions can be seen.

1. ☒ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims.
2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying additional fees, this Authority did not invite payment of additional fees.
3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
  
4. **J"** No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

**Remark on Protest**

☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest and, where applicable, the payment of a protest fee.

☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest but the applicable protest fee was not paid within the time limit specified in the invitation.

☒ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.